

Nebraskans in California

(From a report in a Los Angeles newspaper.)

With Nebraskans from all Southern California in attendance, the annual picnic and election of officers of the Nebraska society took place today at Long Beach's popular picnic grounds, Bixby park.

Special trains were operated by the Pacific Electric to the affair. Crowds began gathering at an early hour. The Long Beach Municipal band provided music for the occasion.

Speeches were made by W. J. Bryan Jr., and W. H. ("Billy") Thompson, known as the silver tongued orator of the Platte valley. Mr. Thompson resides in Grand Island, Neb., and is active in politics in his home state.

The program, as announced by Colonel F. M. Rublee, president of the society, includes the opening by the president; invocation by Dr. Fitch of Adams county, Nebraska; welcome by Chas. Buffum, mayor of Long Beach; response by Colonel F. H. True, president of the Federated Societies; music by the band; a poem by L. W. Snow; an address by C. H. Parsons, secretary of the Federated Societies; address by Mr. Bryan and Mr. Thompson; election of officers and the reunion of graduates of the University of Nebraska.

Many reunions took place at the convivial gathering. Former residents of Superior, Neb., met once more. Among those at the reunion were J. B. Gray, Santa Ana; Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Dysart, Artesia; Mrs. Grace Edwin, Pomona; Ted Young, Balboa; Mr. and Mrs. Frank Warton, Orange; Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Harding, Long Beach, and E. E. Speer, Los Angeles.

Mr. Bryan's speech follows:

HAS FELT CALL OF WEST

"I will confess that when your good chairman first asked me to speak to you today, I tried to wiggle out of it because I felt that there were so many favorite sons of Nebraska here—such as Mayor Cryer and Billy (W. H.) Thompson, and a score of others—who were, by reason of their long residence in and service to the state, more entitled to the honor than I am.

"But when he assured me that they too, were to be here and that they were to be given an opportunity to deliver the extempore speeches which they have no doubt prepared long in advance, why I was glad indeed to come here. For while it is true that I left Nebraska in my early manhood, and that I never returned there again to live, while many of these gentlemen have

labored long and faithfully in up-building her institutions, still, I can claim an equal loyalty to the people and traditions of our common state.

"It seems a remarkable thing to me that so many of you have gathered here today. In fact I feel about it much like the little child who was inquiring into her family history. She asked her father where he was born, and he replied, 'In Omaha, dear.' 'And where was mamma born?' she asked. And he replied, 'Why, she was born out in Grand Island?' 'Well, where was brother Bobby born?' 'He was born while we were living in Beatrice, dear.' And 'where was I born, daddy?' And he replied, 'Why, you were born here in Lincoln, child.' There was a short pause, and then, 'Well, daddy, isn't it just wonderful how we all got together?'

"And it is wonderful, my friends, for we are gathered together from almost every county and city of our great state, from the north to the south and from the east to the west. Many of you there are who pioneered in the development of that great commonwealth and whose names are written large in its history. Many of you there are who went to Nebraska long before my time, but none of you went there earlier in your lives than I did—for I was born and raised in Lancaster county. I attended her public schools and the state university. In fact I watched that institution grow from a small group of two or three buildings to the enormous institution of learning that it now is.

"The earliest recollections of my childhood go back to the time when large bands of Indians were moving thru the country, on their way from the north to the reservations that had been set aside for them in the Indian Territory. I lived there early enough to see the vast stretches of rolling prairie break up and vanish before the steady march of the plow—like these cooling fogs here break up and disappear before the rising sun. And I saw the wonderful alchemy of the soil transform the barren sod into fields of grain and orchards and homes, and villages, which were the beginnings of the cities of today.

"Some one has said that all our progress is made upon our stomachs, and that food is the first necessity of mankind. That is equivalent to saying that the farmers and the farms are the nation's greatest asset. And I am proud to have sprung from a state which produces so abundantly of the food and necessities of life—without which indeed our great cities would be impossible.

"As time moves on, I think that we come more and more to live in our recollections of the past, and I must say that although the west has captured my spirit and I know that I will never be content to live any-

where else in the world, still there are times when I, like you, look back to the days in Nebraska. And, in my mind's eye, I can see again the long files of flowering corn, standing row on row, tall and vigorous. And I can hear again that rustling whisper of the graceful stalks as they bend to the summer wind with their burden of ripening corn. I can hear again the droning hum of the distant reaper as the sea of golden grain sways and falls into its greedy arms. And I long to sense again the sweet, damp perfume that floats from the fields of curing hay.

"These scenes and a thousand others are our heritage from Nebraska and it is fitting therefore that we gather here today and pledge anew our loyalty to our common state.

"But, I, like the rest of you, have felt the call of the west, and have yielded to the call. And yielding, I have been captivated by this smiling land. And like you, I will be content to live the rest of my days among the gardens of this sun-kissed shore.

"'God's Country' it has been called. And God's country it is—for even little children feel its charm. I remind you of the little daughter of a preacher who was called to a pastorate in the east, after having lived for a long time in California. And when he told the little one that they were to leave the next day for their eastern home, she sorrowed greatly. And that night, after she had said her prayers and was about to tumble into bed, she turned her face again to the heavens and cried, 'Well, good bye, God, for tomorrow I am going east.'

And the same spirit is illustrated by another story which is undoubtedly true, though I can't swear it to be a fact as I was not present at the time. It is related that a resident of Long Beach died, and as he had been a good man he went to heaven. And as he went up the golden stair and approached the pearly gate, he was met by an angel, who asked who he was and whence he came. And the man replied that he was a Christian and that he had lived all his life in Long Beach. So the angel swung open the gate and said, 'you may enter, Christian, but if you have lived all your life in California, I can tell you right now that you won't like it here.'

"Now I like it here and I like it for lots of reasons. I have three young daughters of my own and I like to have them grow up in a state where women have for so long taken an active part in public affairs. I have faith in woman's judgment on public questions and she will be found on the right side of every moral question. We used to hear it said that woman was not intelligent enough to know how to vote, and some even went so far as to say that she was downright unreasonable. But in justice to the women I want to say, that the most unreasonable person that I ever heard of was not a woman, but a man. He was suing for divorce on the ground of 'mental cruelty' and at the hearing it developed that the 'cruelty' consisted of nagging about money matters. And the man said, 'Why, Judge, she just nags me night and day. She wants ten dollars today and twenty dollars tomorrow and the next day it is thirty dollars that she wants and it is just money, money, money, all the time.' Well, said the judge, 'that sounds pretty bad. But tell me, what does she do with all this money that she asks for?' And then the man replied: 'Lord, Judge, I don't know. I ain't never give her any yet.'

"We are fortunate indeed to be able to live in this wonderful country, for it is the coming country and no question about it. Recorded history shows that civilization has always moved around the seas. The early Greek civilization exerted its influence for hundreds of years

around the Aegean Sea, until at last, it reached the Mediterranean sea, where for centuries the civilization of the world was molded. But again the tide of culture rose and poured, this time into the Atlantic, and for a thousand years history has recorded the onward march of the people around the shores of the Atlantic ocean. But now we stand at the threshold of another and greater era. The circle is ever widening, and the civilized world is today turning its attention to the problems of the Pacific. For the next thousand years the problems of civilization will be worked out around these very shores, and California is destined to play an ever increasing part in this work.

"The children of today are the leaders of tomorrow and we should take pride in the thought that our children, and our children's children, will be here to take their just part in the march of human events.

"On the other hand, California is to be congratulated, that she has been able in so large a measure to draw to her the people of Nebraska, who will add new lustre to her name and lend strength and stability to her institutions."

HE'S CHIP OF OLD BLOCK

(From Los Angeles, Calif., Record.)

"Eventually the people of the different nations will decide when their country shall enter into war, and when it shall stay out. Not even the representatives of the people will have the power of decision in this matter, but the people themselves, either through direct vote or the referendum will decide. And when this time comes there will be no more wars."

William Jennings Bryan Jr., learned back in his chair as he gave his opinion of how wars will be conducted in the future.

"Mr. Dooley said, 'When them that makes wars gets into them I'm for 'em.' There's a lot of truth in that."

Entering Bryan's office in the Van Nuys building the legal library along the wall tells his vocation. A copy of "Child Training as an Exact Science" lying close at hand on his desk gives a hint of his avocation. Bryan is a large, wholesome looking man with a ready smile and a genial twinkle in his eyes. He talks readily and enthusiastically of his children and about federal law practice.

Untangling highly involved matters of federal law, in which the affairs of nations and individuals are often seemingly hopelessly mixed, and interpreting the equally complex actions and reasoning of children is the main business of life with Bryan. During the week he pursues the practice of law, specializing on federal court matters. On Saturday afternoons and Sundays he devotes his time to his three children, who are all girls.

Graduating from Georgetown University and taking his A. B. degree at the University of Arizona, he was admitted to the bar in that state in 1913. A year and a half later he entered the office of the U. S. district attorney, where he served for five years as assistant U. S. district attorney. During this period he was a regent of the University of Arizona. Leaving Tucson with his family he went back to Nebraska to be near his parents. Mr. and Mrs. William Jennings Bryan.

None of his family was satisfied to remain in the east. So William Jennings, Jr., came to Los Angeles to make his permanent home. He was admitted to practice here last week. The Bryans have taken a house at Long Beach for the summer and will build here later.

In international legal matters Bryan will be associated with his father, who is practicing law in Washington, D. C.

Douglas, Obear & Douglas

Lawyers

William Jennings Bryan

Of Counsel in International Matters

WASHINGTON, D. C.